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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CU-04

SAJ-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01

/081 W
---------- 089221
R 251424Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5624
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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FOR EUR/SOV

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR CASC (FRIEDMAN, MARTIN)
SUBJ: US-SOVIET MARRIAGES: FRIEDMAN-FEDICHEVA

REF: MOSCOW 0448

1. SUMMARY: BALLERINA FEDICHEVA-FRIEDMAN HAS URGENTLY APPEALED TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING HUSBAND AND CLARIFYING HIS PLANS. EMBASSY HAS MADE FURTHER REPRESENTATION TO MFA ON THIS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. KIROV BALLERINA FEDICHEVA-FRIEDMAN VISITED CONSULATE SECTION JANUARY 25 TO RELATE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MARRIAGE CASE AND TO FIND OUT WHETHER HER HUSBAND HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT. SHE WAS ESCORTED INTO EMBASSY PAST MILITIAMEN BY CONSOFF AFTER TELEPHONING IN ADVANCE.

3. FEDICHEVA-FRIEDMAN DESCRIBED HER SITUATIION AS "EXTREMELY DESPERATE." SHE SAID SHE IN LIVING "IN COMPLETE ISOLATION" IMPOSED BY LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES. HER PHONE IS DISCONNECTED SOMETIMES, INOPERATIVE AT OTHERS. LENINGRAD INTERNATIONAL
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TELEPHONE OPERATOR CLAIMS THERE ARE NO REPLIES TO HER CALLS TO UNITED STATES NUMBERS, ESPECIALLY HER HUSBAND'S. HER

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FRIENDS HAVE BEEN WARNED TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE FROM HER. MAIL DELIVERIES HAVE CEASED. SHE FURTHER TOLD CONSOFF THAT ALL TIRES ON HER CAR WERE SLASHED, AND SHE FEARED BEING BEATEN UP ON LENINGRAD STREETS. (IN THIS CONTEXT SHE KEPT RETURNING TO SCHORER INCIDENT, BELIEVING IT MAY BE RELATED. EMBOFFS HAVE TRIED TO PERSUADE HER OTHERWISE).

4. WITH REGARD TO JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, SHE SAYS HER APPEAL AGAINST DECREE ANNULLING HER MARRIAGE TO FRIEDMAN IS BEING HEARD JANUARY 29. SHE HAS FILED BRIEF CLAIMING INTER ALIA HER ABSENCE AT ORIGINAL PROCEEDING DUE TO ILLNESS (MOSCOW 0328) AND COURT ERRED IN NOT CALLING FRIEDMAN AS CO-DEFENDANT. THERE IS ALSO CITY COURT PROCEEDING SCHEDULED FRBRURARY 15 TO CONSIDER STATUS OF HER MARRIAGE TO ZOD'YAN. ON THIS ISSUE SHE ADMITS TO BEING SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT, EXPLAINS THAT "MARTIN UNDERSTANDS" (PRESUMABLY HE IS NOT FATHER) BUT THAT ZOD'YAN IS NOW BEING FORCED TO ADMIT PATERNITY (THOUGH HE IS NOT FATHER EITHER) IN ORDER TO BLOCK FEDICHEVA-ZOD'YAN DIVORCE OR RECOGNITION FRIEDMAN-FEDICHEVA MARRIAGE.

5. IN VIEW OF APPARENT INABILITY FEDICHEVA TO CONTACT HUSBAND, EMBASSY TRIED TO PLACE A CALL BY HER TO HIM AT MID-AFTERNOON JANUARY 25. INTERNATIONAL OPERATOR HAS REPORTED HOWEVER THAT FRIEDMAN'S TELEPHONE IS OUT-OF-ORDER.

6. EMBASSY HAS SENT TELEGRAM TO FRIEDMAN REQUESTING HIM TO CALL EMBASSY (OBER OR MOXHAY) OR FEDICHEVA AT MOSCOW APARTMENT (TELEPHONE 252-9513) WHERE SHE IS STAYING UNTIL JANUARY 28.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF DEPT WOULD REACH FRIEDMAN AND DETERMINE HIS POSITION VIS-A-VIS FEDICHEVA. (34 LOWER COURT ROAD, OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND; TELEPHONE 301 356 5351.) HE SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO TELEPHONE HER DIRECT. IT SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT HER APPEAL ON ANNULMENT OF THEIR MARRIAGE IS BEING HEARD IN LENINGRAD JANUARY 29, AND THAT SHE IS DISTRAUGHT BECAUSE THEY HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH ONE ANTOTHER. FEDICHEVA IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE ONLY PUBLICITY CAN POSSIBLY REVERSE CURRENT SITUATION AND PROTECT HER FROM FURTHER DIFFICULTIES OR HARM. BUT SHE
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WANTS TO DISCUSS ENTIRE SITUATION WITH FRIEDMAN BEFORE TAKING NEXT STEP.

8. POL COUNSELOR AGAIN RAISED QUESTION WITH DEPUTY CHIEF USA DIVISION OF MFA ON JANUARY 25, INFORMING HIM OF DEVELOPMENTS AND OF DATES OF FURTHER COURT ACTION. FEDOSEYEV LISTENED CAREFULLY AND MADE NO DEMURRALS BUT AGREED TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY ANYTHING DEFINITE BUT DID NOT BELIEVE CASE WAS "HOPELESS." IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST THAT MFA GIVE EMBASSY A REPLY IN ORDER THAT WE CAN KEEP MR. FRIEDMAN

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INFORMED, FEDOSEYEV SAID HE WOULD DO SO IF POSSIBLE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO POL COUNSELOR'S REFERENCE TO ADVICE RECEIVED BY MR. FRIEDMAN FROM SOVIET LAWYER TO AVOID PUBLICITY AND COMMENTED THAT THAT WAS STILL GOOD ADVICE.

9. COMMENT: POTENTIAL FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS DAMAGE TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON THIS CASE IS VERY SUBSTANTIAL. EVEN IF FEDICHEVA EXAGGERATES HER SITUATION (AND WE DON'T THINK SHE HAS), IT IS CLEAR LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE PROCEEDED CALLOUSLY AND RUTHLESSLY WITHOUT ANY SENSITIVITY TO POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ABROAD. ONCE WESTERN PRESS SEIZES ON STORY IT WILL DEVELOP OWN MOMENTUM. FYI: FEDICHEVA IS DANCER WELL KNOWN TO NEW YORK TIMES CRITIC CLIVE BARNES AND CHOREOGRAPHER ROBERT JOFFREY. END FYI. IT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER FRIEDMAN HIMSELF IS LOW-KEY, NONCOMBATIVE PERSON WITH NO KNOW-HOW IN MANAGING PRESS. FACT THAT DEFICHEVA IS "NARODNIY ARTIST" (RECEIVED 1967), WELL KNOWN IN US FROM 1961 AND 1964 APPEARANCES, AS WELL AS OTHER APPEARANCE ABROAD, AND THAT AMERICAN CITIZEN FRIEDMAN IS CO-VICTIM OF SOVIET ACTION SUGGESTS THIS STORY POSSIBLE MAY HAVE MORE DRAMATIC IMPACT ON US CULTURAL/THEATRIC CIRCLES AND PUBLIC THAN PANOV SAGA.

EXEMPT.
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